

Participant Study Notes — Lesson 2: The Seven Lampstands and the Seven Stars

Christ's Presence Among His Churches

Key passage: Revelation 1:9–20 | KJV

The Lamb who redeems His people remains present with His churches.

Study approach: Observe the passage → Compare Scripture → Respond.

1. What John sees

John is on Patmos and shares in the believers' tribulation. He hears a voice and sees seven golden lampstands, with One like the Son of man among them. This Person holds seven stars and identifies Himself as the One who died and now lives forever. He is the crucified and risen Jesus.

Revelation 1:9–18

2. What the lampstands and stars mean

Jesus directly explains both symbols: the lampstands represent the seven churches, and the stars represent the angels of those churches (Revelation 1:20). The churches are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea (Revelation 1:11).

The angels' precise identity is less explicit; the verse does not directly call them pastors or elders.

3. Why a church is pictured as a lampstand

Jesus calls His followers "the light of the world." Their good works should lead people to glorify the Father (Matthew 5:14–16).

Believers shine while holding forth the Word of life (Philippians 2:14–16).

A church bears light through gospel teaching, loving relationships, compassion, and integrity.

Exodus 25:31–40 describes one lampstand with seven lamps; Revelation describes seven lampstands. Related imagery must be studied within each passage's context.

4. Christ is present and holds His people under His care

Jesus walks among His churches (Revelation 2:1). He has not abandoned them: “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).

He holds the stars under His authority.

Isaiah 41:10 connects God’s right hand with strength, help, and sustaining care. This comparison supports understanding Christ’s care; Revelation does not directly explain every detail of the hand.

5. Christ knows the truth and corrects in love

Jesus knows Ephesus’s labor and loss of first love, Smyrna’s suffering, Sardis’s spiritual deadness, and Philadelphia’s faithfulness despite little strength (Revelation 2:2–4, 9; 3:1, 8).

His presence brings comfort and accountability.

Ephesus must remember, repent, and do the first works or face removal of its lampstand (Revelation 2:5).

His correction expresses love and calls His people toward restoration (Revelation 3:19).

6. The messages speak beyond their original churches

These were actual congregations in Asia (Revelation 1:4, 11). All believers are invited to hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 2:7).

In the historical-prophetic reading used in this seminar, their messages also portray successive periods of church history. This sequence is an interpretive application, not a directly stated, dated timeline.

All seven messages remain instructive.

Laodicea challenges self-sufficiency and calls us to receive Christ’s remedy (Revelation 3:17–19).

7. Our response

Receive Christ’s counsel, renew your love for Him, and let His light become visible through your life.

Choose one action this week: reconcile with someone, make an encouraging visit, serve a person in need, or share Scripture.

Remember: Jesus is present, He knows our condition, and His correction expresses His love.